



STUDY CIRCLE

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SILVER JUBILEE
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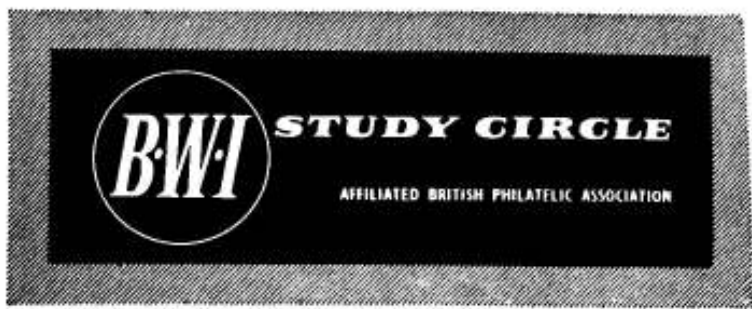
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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the **British West Indies** and in addition **BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS.**
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways. List supplied on application.
4. To publicise 'wants'.
5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

MEMBERSHIP

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be **advanced** or **new** collectors. The ANNUAL subscription is **£2.50** or **\$5.50** USA due **1st January**. The latter rate includes airmail postage of bulletins and collection charges and is subject to changes from time to time as determined by the Hon. Treasurer. An International Money Order or Draft drawn on London is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

PROGRAMME 1979

Wed., Mar. 21st, 6 p.m. John B. Marriott, Trinidad

Sat., Apr. 21st, 3 p.m. A.G.M. and Auction

The meetings will be held at Stanley Gibbons Auction Room, Drury House, Russell St., London, W.C.2.

SPECIAL EVENT

Sat., May 19th. Silver Jubilee Meeting and one day open Convention commencing at 10.30 a.m. in the NELSON ROOM, OLD SHIP HOTEL, Kings Road, Brighton, Sussex.

DISPLAY

The first day of the British Philatelic Exhibition held at the Seymour Hall, London, W.1. was the 18th October, 1978 and during the evening of that day there was a meeting of the Study Circle when anyone present could show up to nine pages if he or she so wished. Sixteen members and three visitors attended the meeting and a summary of the pages shown now follows:

MR. M. MATTICK showed Jamaica War Stamps and commenced with a page of examples of the four types of overprint. Next, he showed examples of the ½d with the single line overprint. Varieties included a small dot after 'STAMP', two dots after 'STAMP' and no stop after 'STAMP' in pair with normal. A third page was of the ½d with the overprint in two lines, the letters being 1½mm high. There was a block of twelve with one no stop after 'STAMP' variety and a gutter pair with the overprint in thick and thin letters on either side of the division. The fourth page contained the same overprint, but this time on the 1½d. value. Varieties included 'S' inserted by hand, an inverted 'd' for 'p' and two dots after 'STAMP'. The fifth page was of the 3d. value with the same overprint. This included a pair used with the overprint sideways. The sixth and last page was of the overprint in two lines 2mm high on the 1½d value. Varieties included a broken 'S', overprint double, a dot between 'A' and 'M' and a pair with inverted watermark.

MR. K A. BAYLEY exhibited a number of pages with examples of the 1852-55 first issue of Barbados on blued paper and also examples prepared for use but not issued. The first page contained examples of the ½d yellow green (SG.1) cancelled by the horizontal oval obliterators 1 (GPO Bridgetown) and 5 (St John). On the next page a mint block of four and a mint block of six of the ½d deep green (SG.2) were shown. The third page displayed a fine mint block of nine (3 x 3) of the (1d) blue (SG.3). There was a local cover posted at Bridgetown on 25th August, 1852 to Speights Town with a (1d) deep blue arriving at destination on the same day shown on page four. Page five exhibited a block of nine (3 x 3), a block of four and a vertical pair of the (1d) deep blue (SG.4), all being mint stamps. The (2d) greyish slate (SG.4a) was shown on page six in a mint block of six, a pair and a single. Mr. Bayley stated that these stamps were often confused with the (no value) deep slate (SG.5b) prepared for use but not issued. The seventh page showed a cover to Newfoundland franked by a (2d) greyish slate bisected (SG.4a) and a vertical pair of the ½d deep green (SG.2) making up the Barbados local rate and in addition an '8' was enfaced in manuscript denoting the

packet rate. This page also displayed a strip of three of the (2d) greyish state (SG.4a) which is very rare whole in used condition as it is normally found bisected. Page eight showed a mint block of four, a mint pair and a single of the (4d) brownish red (SG.5). The last two pages dealt with the two stamps prepared for use but not issued. First, a mint sheet of 110 stamps (10 x 11)(no value) slate blue (SG.5a) which is the more common stamp. Finally, a block of four of the (no value) deep slate (SG.5b) which is the stamp with the rarer shade.

MR. A.H. LATHAM displayed paid marks of Jamaica, and among these shown were the following items:-

1. The fairly common 'PD' inside an oval on an entire dated Aug. 4 1799.
2. 'PAID/To ENGLAND' inside a circle on a cover from Jamaica to London dated about 30th March, 1817.
3. A circular type JAMAICA PAID' with date in centre known between 1820-24 with the year date always in three figures. An example was shown on an entire from Kingston to London dated 8th October, 1821.
4. A circular type 'JAMAICA PAID' with date in centre and two curved bars on each side. An example was shown on an entire from Jamaica to London dated 9th May, 1845.
5. 'KINGSTON JAMAICA' inside a circle with date in centre having the word 'PAID' boxed and superimposed outside the circle above 'KINGSTON'. This is the first type of paid mark to show the name of a Post Town. An example was displayed on an entire dated 8th September, 1839.
6. 'PAID/8d' inside a circle was handstamped in red on local mail. 8d was the inland rate on ½oz. letters carried over 100 miles. An example of this strike was shown on a cover dated 19th March, 1849. On and after 5th January, 1843 all letters from Jamaica (excluding Kingston) to the United Kingdom were subject to a new all-in rate of 1/2d per ½oz. An example of this rate was shown on a cover dated 9th March, 1854.
7. A handstamp with the figure '1' was issued on 17th October, 1843 and applied in red. An example of this strike was shown on the Family News Paper Vol.1 No.21.

MR. S. GOLDBLATT first showed two pages of mint and used Queen Victoria stamps of Dominica. On the next two pages he displayed further postmarks including two examples of manuscript cancellations of Portsmouth and also postal fiscals overprinted 'REVENUE'. Mr. Goldblatt then showed a further page with the first set of Leeward Islands stamps with 'A07' and Dominica c.d.s. postmarks. On his sixth page he exhibited Leeward Islands stamps with village cancellations including Grand Bay, Colihaut, Laplaine, Rosalie, Coulibistrie, Wesley, St. Joseph and Vieille Case. On the seventh page there were Dominica stamps with similar village marks but also including Castle Bruce, Delices, Dublanc, Mahaut, Marigot, Pointe Michel and Soufriere. On page eight there was a miscellaneous collection of marks from the Caribbean area (but excluding Dominica). On the last page Mr. Goldblatt showed Dominica stamps with maritime markings from the whole of the Caribbean.

MR. C.A. FREELAND showed various aspects of Montserrat commencing on his first page with a mint block of four of the 1d red (SG.1) and also both the re-entries on this stamp. On the next page there was the variety wider spaced 'MON' on the 1d red (SG.1) and 6d green (SG.2) and also an example of the scarce red circular

'MONTSERRAT PAID' with date in centre. On page three he showed the rare 6d blue-green (SG. 3) which is only known in mint condition, a mint block of four of the 4d blue (SG.5) and an imperforate plate proof of the 2½d red-brown with CC watermark. On page four he exhibited a used pair and three used singles of the 1d rose-red and also the 6d green with the Iremonger re-entry. On the next two pages there was a mint block of four of the ½d dull green (SG.6) from plate 2 and a mint block of four of the 2½d ultramarine (SG.10). He also had a rare Sperati 'die proof' in issued colour of the 4d blue. The last items on these pages were a mint block of eight (4 x 2) of the 4d mauve (SG.12) in a very strong colour and two mint examples of the 1d red perf.12 (SG.13). On page seven Mr. Freeland showed a fine used block of nine (3 x 3) of the 4d mauve and two examples of the 1d red perf.12 each stamp with the larger of the two re-entries. On page eight he displayed the 4d mauve on cover tied by an 'A08' cancel and also a strip of three of the same stamp in a fine colour. Finally, on his last page Mr. Freeland turned to a display of the abbreviated village marks of St. Vincent on various early stamps including Barrouallie, Bequia, Biabou, Buccament, Calliaqua, Chateaubelair, Colonarie, Cumberland, Layout, Mesopotamia, Rabacca, Stubbs, Union Estate and Kingstown.

MR. E.V. TOEG showed some aspects of Antigua and commenced with an imperforate colour trial in chocolate and dull green of the ½d value on gummed paper watermarked Crown CA which was probably prepared in 1908. This was followed by imperforate plate proofs on gummed paper watermarked Multiple Crown CA of the 1908-17 set of which the 1d and 2½d were singles and the remaining values in horizontal pairs. These plate proofs were succeeded by the ½d, 1d and 2½d of the 1908-17 set in Universal colours overprinted 'SPECIMEN' with Samuel type D12a in black. Then an original die proof enfaced '3 MAY. 12 BEFORE HARDENING' on glazed card of king George V's head within an oval vignette being part of the design adopted for the five shillings value (large format) by Antigua in 1913 and by Dominica and Montserrat in 1914, followed by a horizontal pair of imperforate plate proofs of the Antigua five shillings and a 'SPECIMEN' example with Samuel type D12a in black. Next, imperforate plate proofs in horizontal pairs of the ½d green overprinted 'WAR STAMP' in black and red respectively. Then a die proof of the 1½d design in black on glazed card in black on glazed card and a horizontal pair of imperforate plate proofs overprinted 'WAR STAMP' in black. All three war stamps were also shown overprinted 'SPECIMEN' with Samuel Type D12a.

MR. B. B. BENWELL brought along his maritime marks from Barbados and they are summarised as follows:

1. A 'BARBADOS/SHIP LETTER' mark in black on an envelope of 1847.
2. An entire with a mark consisting of an oval with 'BARBADOS/11 AU 88/ SHIP LETTER' in black.
3. Two album pages displaying consignees' mail. Mr. Benwell explained that an exporter of goods was allowed to send bills of lading and other commercial documents free of postage on the ship which was carrying the goods.
4. A cover with a violet cachet 'MAILED AT SEA/ R.M.S. LADY DRAKE' and also a postcard with a single line 'MAILED AT SEA' in blue.
5. A cover from the C.N.S 'LADY HAWKINS' with a boxed 'POSTED/ON BOARD' and other covers with similar markings.

6. A cover with the words 'POSTED ON THE HIGH SEAS' set out in circular form with 'S.S. VOLTAIRE' across the centre. The Voltaire and her sister ship Vandyck belonged to the Lamport and Holt Line and were used as cruise ships before the 1939-45 war - the cruises starting either from Liverpool or Southampton and possibly Tilbury as well depending on the itinerary. Both ships failed to survive the war and were apparently not replaced.

MR. D.G.J. CHARLESWORTH commenced his display with a brief description relating to the introduction of adhesive stamps into Jamaica and then went on to show the various types of markings used on the island. KINGSTON A01 Type 01. A pair of 4d rose used on part cover from Kingston to Savannah La Mar and a 6d lilac used on part cover from Kingston to London. Then followed a page of stamps off cover displaying the 1d, 4d, 6d and 1/- values, KINGSTON A01 duplex type 02. A pair of 4d rose used on part cover from Kingston to Savannah La Mar; also 4d and 6d stamps off cover. The next page displayed a 4d rose with a postmark of the KINGSTON DOUBLE A01 type 03.

Next, a letter from Savannah La Mar to London with a 6d lilac cancelled with the Sav-La-Mar type P2b handstamp and a Kingston A01 type 01 denoting the use of British stamps at Post Towns before the arrival of Town obliterations. Finally, a sheet of stamps showing various issues cancelled by the Town obliterations among them being A39 Falmouth, A45 Grange Bill, A51 Lucea and A57 Montego Bay.

SILVER JUBILEE BRIGHTON

The Silver Jubilee Meeting, referred to in the last Bulletin, will be held in the NELSON ROOM of the OLD SHIP HOTEL, Kings Rd., Brighton, Sussex, on 19th May, 1979. The Hotel, situated on the front, is some 250 yards west of the Palace Pier.

The programme of events is as follows:-

10.30 am Meeting opens with a short speech of welcome by the President.

10.35 am Bourse opens.

11.00 am to 11.30 mm Coffee and biscuits (no charge)

12.00 noon. Bourse closes.

12.15 pm to 12.50 pm First Display.

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm Lunch period and Bourse re-opens.

2.55 pm Bourse closes.

3.00 pm to 3.55 pm Second Display

3.45 pm to 4.15 pm Tea and biscuits (35p.), or, Coffee and biscuits (40p.) to be paid for by persons ordering same.

3.45 pm Bourse Re-opens.

4.10 pm Bourse finally closes.

4.15 pm to 4.50 pm Third Display.

4.55 pm to 5.00 pm Closing of Meeting by the President

The invited Displays will be:-

12.15 p.m. Bryan E. Johnson, Grenada

3.00 p.m. J.A.C. Farmer, Leeward Islands

4.15 p.m. Basil B. Benwell, Barbados

THE BOURSE Would members who are dealers and who would like to take a table please apply to Mr. E.V. Toeg by letter or phone as soon as possible, requesting a reservation. Tables will be allocated on a first come first served basis within the limit of available accommodation and the cost of these will be £8.00 each on the day. Mr. Toeg can be contacted at PO Box 218, London, NW8 OJE. Tel: 01-624 8687.

Dealers will not be confined to selling BWI material only.

All reasonable security precautions will be taken by the Study Circle, but dealers must be personally responsible for the safety of their stock and neither the Study Circle nor any of its Honorary Officers and/or members nor the Hotel nor any one else can accept any legal responsibility for loss of or damage to stock under any circumstances.

MEMBERS APPROVAL TABLE Members of the Study Circle will be able to lodge beforehand or at the Meeting itself with Simon Goldblatt material which they would like to sell at an agreed price by means of the Members Approval Table. The Study Circle will receive from the Venders a small commission on any sales effected.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETIES In order to interest a wider number of persons than our own membership, The Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies has been approached to bring to the notice of the Secretaries of its affiliated Societies details of our Silver Jubilee Meeting with its attendant Bourse, and it is hoped that many collectors living in Sussex will attend at one time or another during the day.

CO ORDINATOR OF THE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS To ensure that the strict table of our Programme of Events is adhered to it has been arranged for our member Mr. William ff. D. Hall of 4, Northfield Rise, Rottingdean, Brighton, BN2 7DR Tel: Brighton 31358 to be the Co-ordinator.

STEWARDS For security reasons we shall need a number of stewards working two or three at a time on a rota basis throughout the day. We feel that the majority of those attending ought to be able to take a turn. Would you please get in touch with Mr. William ff. D. Hall who will be responsible for organising the stewards.

THE NELSON ROOM Entry to and exit from the Nelson Room is to be ONLY from the side entrance into the Nelson Room from Black Lion Street and not through other parts of the Hotel.

GARAGING FACILITIES The Hotel Garages is in Black Lion Street next to the entrance to the Nelson Room and therefore very convenient. Those members wishing to reserve garage space should get in touch with Mr. E.V. Toeg as soon as possible. As garage accommodation is limited, allocation must be on a first come first served basis. We would emphasize that it is extremely difficult to park a car for several hours in Brighton on a Saturday.

May we urge as many members as possible to attend what will surely be a most enjoyable occasion. You will be assured of a warm welcome and we shall look forward to meeting you.

ANNUAL AUCTION

Lots may be viewed at the B.P.F. Office, Room 3, The National Liberal Club, 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 4EH, on Thursday and Friday, 19th and 20th April, 1979, between the hours of 10.30 am. and 3.30 p.m.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1978

1977	INCOME	1978	EXPENDITURE	1978
£306.30	Advertisers	£264.76	Books and Periodicals	-
18.84	Bulletins (Sale of back issues)	41.87	Hire of Rooms &c	64.00
10.50	Cordex Binders	4.50	Insurance	21.90
5.25	Collections at Meetings	13.95	Postage	177.20
2.00	Donations	4.00	Printing & blocks - Bulletin	863.93
10.75	Opinion Fees	9.32	Printing Convention Booklet	-
600.92	Subscriptions	680.19	Stationery	71.54
103.98	Subscriptions paid in advance	53.63	Subscriptions (Refund Members)	10.00
15.26	Sundry receipts	-	Sundries	10.00
135.58	Auction profit	163.24	Telephone	19.45
-	Auction profit - Warwick Convention	112.64	Cash at Bank	5.64
737.01	Cash at Bank	801.85		906.29
£1946.39		£2149.95		£2149.95

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT			
1977	1977	1978	1978
£ 2.00	Sales of Paper No. 4	8.00	Printing costs - Paper No. 6
66.50	" " " No. 5	£365.00	Postage
398.34	" " " No. 6	20.70	Travelling (petrol)
	Monies included in Publications Account	2.55	Cheques refunded
16.45	Cheques for General Account	10.00	Monies included in Publication Account
		16.45	Cheques for General Account
27.25	Cash at Bank	95.84	Cash at Bank
£510.54		£510.54	
		£206.07	

Checked and found in good order,
Signed: A.J. Brunston 24.1.79

NOTES AND QUERIES

ANGUILLA

ANGUILLA is the most northerly of the Leeward Islands, 19 miles long by 3 miles wide, with an area of 35 square miles. The population averages between 5-6000, practically all coloured. Many thousands have emigrated over the years, as its economy would not support a larger number.

The island was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493, and the name derived from its resemblance to a snake or from the French "L' Anguille", the eel. The Carib name was "Malliouhana".

Although the first British settlement on the island was made in 1650, with one or two letters known only in the next 250 years, it is not until 1900 that it actually enters the postal history field. On 10th May, 1900 in the P.O. Proof Books (Vol. 51., Steel), appears impressions of duplex A12 handstamps for use in St. Kitts' villages and the sub-office on Anguilla, this latter being distinguished by the letters "AN" below St. Kitts, and above the date. Needless to say this is not an easy strike to find. It has been recorded as late at January 1925.

Circa 1921 a large circular date stamp placed into use, distinguished by a large "A" below St. Kitts. Mainly recorded between 1924-27. In the period to 1967 the opening of sub-post offices at Customs Offices was the significant pointer for the island, being granted by Order in Council S.R.O.26 (c. 1927) at FOREST, EAST END, THE ROAD and BLOWING POINT. The original office at Crocus Hill was renamed ANGUILLA/VALLEY, several examples being known from this year of 1927. EAST END has been seen as a single word, and ROAD only. After 1931 the sub-offices lapsed into obscurity, and were officially closed in September 1939.

The next circular datestamp recorded from early 1949, the type being much narrower, and * above the date. This would seem to have continued in use until March 1967.

On 10th November 1950 six values of the current St. Kitts & Nevis definitives were overprinted in three lines ANGUILLA TERCENTENARY 1650-1950.

In 1952 the recognition of this third island in the presidency was shown on the Queen Elizabeth stamps, the title being amended to read "St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla".

The 3c value of this issue had a map of the whole area showing the positions of the islands; however, the two highest values of the George VI issue were issued on 1st September 1948, i.e. 10s, and £1, both showing a detailed map of Anguilla.

On 27th February, 1967, the three islands became an "Associated State", but the Anguillans seceded and declared their "Independence" on 30th May 1967. A temporary rubber date stamp for the STATE OF ST. CHRISTOPHER/ NEVIS ANGUILLA with the individual name above the date was in service until 28th March 1967, when a similarly inscribed date stamp replaced this.

The stamps available on the island were overprinted INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA, values ½c to \$5, varying from 100 x 60c to 4,250 x 2c. No trade orders were supplied, and very few complete sets are thus found.

From its first definitives to date, many attractive stamps have been issued, plus miniature sheets, overprinted stamps, causing varieties. First type independent overprints have been forged, so collectors beware!

Other cancellations since independence have included a 50mm TRD, again very few examples known, two First Day of Issue, Travelling Post Office - (one "1") this being the Postmaster's jeep suitably furnished - and a Paquebot handstamp. Early 1978 the present postmaster could only recall two with this last named being addressed to the United Kingdom. A quite wide range of instructional and departmental stamps are held on Anguilla, all worth searching for, including a handstruck registration etiquette.

Finally, do not overlook the British Forces items mostly from F.P.O. 1046, although some mail with this number was on Antigua; * B.F.P.O. 643 using F.P.O. 701; air letter forms with the independent overprint and definitive issues with a map of the island, and covers cancelled by ANGUILLA AIRWAYS or WEST INDIES AIR LINES INC., both now defunct. * F.P.O. 143 on parcels.

The lighthouse keepers on Sombrero Island also use a cachet on their infrequent despatches of mail.

Ronald Ward

ANTIGUA

ANTIGUA AIR MAIL

During the last few months I have been corresponding with an aero-philatelist from Somerset on the Do-X cachets used in Antigua and found Mr. George Bowman's excellent series of articles entitled 'By Air Mail from The Leeward Islands' which was published in the Bulletin in 1971 and 1972 useful in answering some of his questions. During this correspondence he mentioned that he had a Do-X cachet in lilac on an envelope dated AU 20 '31. He admitted that there was some controversy about the authenticity of the cachet - one specialist in the States saying that it was genuine while another in England saying that it was a fake. All the cachets that I have seen or read about have been in black. Can any reader confirm the use of a lilac Do-X cachet and if genuine give particulars of its use (e.g. temporary rubber handstamp?).

My other point on which I would request assistance concerns an air mail cover in my collection from Antigua to Puerto Rico. The cover has the standard 9d postage rate as mentioned by Mr. Bowman with the stamps cancelled by a c.d.s. on Sep. 26, 1929. The interesting point about this cover is the cachet which has been applied in black to the envelope. It reads:-

FIRST AIR MAIL/ARTIGUA TO USA/SEPTEMBER 1929

in letters 4mm high. The cachet is unboxed and extends in three lines over 21mm. It is the only first flight cover in my collection to carry such a cachet and I would be interested to read the comments of members on the use of such a cachet.

BAHAMAS

THE OREGLIA FORGERY OF TRE FOUR PENCE VALUE

Erasmus Oneglia was a prolific Italian forger who worked for a considerable amount of his time in Turin, during the late 1890's. In 1897 he was arrested for attempting to sell his imitations to Stanley Gibbons when his stock was confiscated and he was fined 20 shillings. He engraved forgeries of a number of countries and in 1897 made some Bahamas items by photogravure.

The Fourpence is attributed to him and the details are as follows:

Colour This is too bright and excessively crimson to be mistaken for the nearest shade, the bright rose of 1863-80.

Perforation This is very clean, perf 11 and appears to be comb.

Paper No wmk, medium white and quite stout as compared with the genuine stamp.

Cancellation Currently two copies are held and both show the semblance of a part of a bars cancellation.

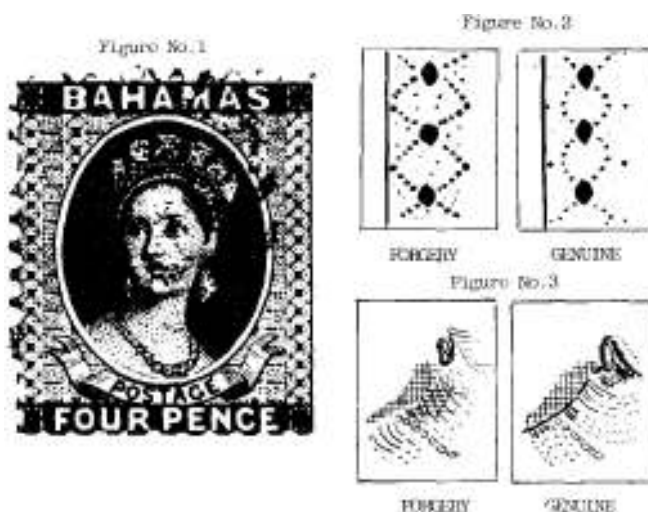
Method of reproduction Photogravure

Figure No.1 shows this forgery. It can be identified by the following contrasting details:

Test A The diamond lattice of the background is more squat than that of the forgery. This is shown in Figure 2.

Test B The shoulder line below the right ear differs. See Figure 3.

Test C The corner stars are much heavier in the forgery than in the genuine.



General appearance Over the whole of the stamp there is an increase in the amount of ink in each line and this gives a very strong and bright appearance to the forgery.

Comment It would be most useful to have information as to whether this forgery exists unused or with a definite cancellation. Even more valuable would be the whereabouts of any panes, blocks or pairs which might give a clue to the size of the printing 'plate' which Oneglia used.

Oneglia was not a lone forger. In fact he worked in close association with a number of others. It is considered that both Panelli and Sperati followed in his footsteps and learned much of their nefarious trade at his hands.

Alfred J. Branston

BARBADOS

A DISASTER AT SEA?

A picture postcard sent from Barbados to Dominica on 28th August, 1909 is included in my collection because it shows early use of the ‘T’ in circle tax mark sent out from London to all parishes in April, 1907. However, it is the following correspondence, albeit brief, that proves to be intriguing.

“The Eden will become a total wreck, Roe was on watch when she struck.

The Berbice is a strange looking craft, had a morse message from de Caens at sea last night. Best wishes JRH”

For over 20 years the Eden, Esk and Solent were employed on the inter-island routes by the RMSP Co., and were based at Barbados, the transfer station for the West Indies from 1855 to 1911, the Eden being withdrawn from service in 1909.

One would suppose that the Eden was taken out of service before the event mentioned above, but it would be interesting to know if the vessel was sold to another company before the disaster, her route at that time and whether in fact she did become a total loss?

Michael Sheppard

BRITISH GUIANA

METER MACHINE MARKS

Postal Meter Machine marks have been used in British Guiana since 1942 and perhaps before.

Townsend & Howe on page 375 of their book state that “In 1933 the PMG was authorised to grant licences for the use of franking or postal machines on private premises . . . and such a licence fee in 1954 was \$1”.

While inspecting my small collection of these marks I find that private firms and Government departments have made frequent use of such machines, the main bulk of these coming from Banks and Insurance companies.

Several types exist, but the main format remains constant with the exception of “U1”. In general a stamp like tablet is on the right hand side of the cover with BRITISH GUIANA at the top, code number at the foot and rate in dollars and cents in the centre. To the left is a c.d.s. GEORGETOWN/BRITISH GUIANA with the date of sorting in the centre and further to the left can be a company advertising slogan. All are in red ink to denote prepayment of mail.

The earliest example in my collection is from T. Geddes Grant Ltd., Georgetown, bearing four stamp tablets 24c, 12c, 6c and 4c in a horizontal line; to the left is the standard c.d.s. GEORGETOWN/BRITISH GUIANA 15 VIII 42, this total of 46 cents being the correct air mail rate to New York at that time. Along side this mark is the current AIRMAIL G.P.O./BRITISH GUIANA c.d.s. 16 AU 42. Unfortunately the stamp tablets are heavily inked thus no number code is legible, although the Georgetown c.d.s. is reasonably clear.

The following cover for 10th February 1953 is totally different from any I have seen, being a double boxed mark reading BRITISH/ crown/ GUIANA/U1 on the top line, 10 II 53 REGISTRATION boxed on middle line and G.P.O./GEORGETOWN bottom line. To their right underneath the “U1” is a ‘\$’ and ‘C’ sign showing O 13, this rate 13 cts being the registered air mail to Barbados. The cover indicates G.P.O. Georgetown used such a machine for a short time in the 1950’s.

Having recently written to the PMG in Georgetown seeking further information on the issue of such machines to companies and Government departments, the reply stated that my request could not be granted as this was privileged information. Yet similar data is readily available from several other West Indian authorities. However, I wish to expand my study on this subject and invite members to send me any information they may have on British Guiana meter machine marks.

Finally I have listed below the standard types known to me - U2, U5, U10, U19, U22 and U25. RN16, RN18, RN19 and RN20. N8 and N19.

Michael Rego

BRITISH HONDURAS

I am going to try again!

What a pity that Paul Hart did not write all about postmarks when he had his British Honduras collection. A lot of information has now been dispersed, and it will be very much harder to re-assemble.

Postmarks of 1890

Preserving what I can for posterity, I turn back to the year 1890. What postmarks were in use at that time?

The following village offices were functioning, ii only intermittently:- All Pines, Cayo, Corozal, Monkey River, Mullins River, Orange Walk, Punta Gorda, San Estevan, Stann Creek. Let us consider them, but not in that order:-

COROZAL. I think I must recant here, and accept that the 'C' killer belongs to Corozal. Certainly a quantity of Aikman covers display a c.d.s. of the office as a backstamp, and the 'C' killer on the front; so do odd commercial covers that I have seen; and I have not spotted an entire cancelled 'C' which positively originated elsewhere. Although it is still possible for the mail to have travelled with only backstamp of origin, and stamps uncanceled, to be struck with 'C' on arrival at G.P.O., the evidence piling up is far more consistent with 'C' for Corozal.

ORANGE WALK 'O' is most definitely not for Orange Walk. Many entires originating from Belize display this killer. In use at Grange Walk was the small A06 killer, as a number of covers prove. I cannot say when the office first began to use this instrument; at any rate, the strikes seen between about 1890 and the commencement of c.d.s. use, early in the present century, seem to me wholly consistent with this killer having been used regularly and exclusively at Orange Walk. Stamps bearing this marking should therefore be up-graded to 'village' status.

SAN ESTEVAN BCPSG Journal was the first to report the sighting of a duplex mark for this office, dated 26.5.91. Sadly, this exciting discovery was repeated without either comment or acknowledgement, when PHI, reviewed the mail services and postmarks of the Colony in November 1973, and March to April 1974. So far as I am aware the mark has not yet been illustrated; so I reproduce here the three-ring 'target' which I take to form part of the mark reported by our colleagues in BCPSG. Several members will now realise that they own, or have at least seen, stamps cancelled in this way, and like myself have attached little significance to it hitherto. Why do I now write with a certain confidence? Please read on!

PUNTA GORDA: STANN CREEK To reinforce the San Estevan 'find' - not in my possession, I am sorry to say - I can reveal that duplex markings of equal character

existed for these two offices as well. Description would be inadequate; fortunately, each can be illustrated. It thus emerges that in or shortly before the year 1890 British Honduras procured a small series of rubber duplex markings for issue to villages; and these probably came either from Mexico, or one of the Gulf ports, such as Mobile. So, if one finds a 'dumb' cancel in rubber of a type different from the three offices above, one can ascribe it tentatively to CAYO or MONKEY RIVER, MULLINS RIVER or ALL PINES. Remember that heavy 'bars' cancellations turn up fairly regularly on Q.V. stamps; these are presumably done with a steel instrument. It remains to be seen whether they belong to GPO along with '0', 'K 65' and the large 'A06', or should be added to the village instrumentation. More research, please!!

One needs a new designation, and I suggest for this group, RD1. To expand the code: rubber, duplex, and the first series of 'temporary' instruments.



MAIL BAG SEALS Do not forget also that each office must have owned a seal. I have previously reported SAN ESTEVAN used as a cancellation in the Victorian era. To this must be added PUNTA GORDA - also, as it happens, on a 3-cent brown.

Except for a hint of violet in Punta Gorda, RD1, all village markings so far discussed are struck with the black pad. In general, the violet markings belong to the present century. Incidentally, I do have an Edward 1-cent struck with K65 in violet, which is sometimes a hint that a GPO killer has been handed out to a village.

I stress that type RD1 cannot conceivably account for all the mail originating at the relevant offices. Indeed, ignoring the date stamp - intended for the cover, not the stamp - I have not seen the Stann Creek dumb cancel, but on this one occasion; and have noted the other two marks only on the D.L.R surcharge issue. In view of the traffic with Punta Gorda and Stann Creek, there must be other marks which can be identified with these two offices. I have not forgotten that John Forrest in PHI. (1974, p107) quotes a very low annual turnover for mail services southward from Belize right up to the year 1918. I do not, however, accept that his figures tell the full story of mail travelling to and from the south.

The next Series

I am indebted to Ralph Group who, with his illustrations in Bulletin 84, first demonstrated to me that my description of a 'boxed' mark for Caledonia was quite wrong. Mr. Group showed, on the contrary, that one was dealing with a species of label postmark, and I propose to designate the next group of markings RL2 (rubber, label, second series of 'temporary' markings).



Again the obliterations must surely come from somewhere in Central America, or the Southern United States.

The following offices definitely had marks of type RL2:-

BENQUE VIEJO. Seen struck in black, and the only mark of this type not in violet.

CALEDONIA Someone somewhere has told me about an example additional to the one I mentioned in Bulletin 80. I expect that the final score will reach at least five - but not yet, at any rate.

CONSEJO One of these turned up in a small, mixed lot of B.H. postmarks in our own Warwick Convention auction, autumn '77. Since Consejo had its own c.d.s. by at least 1909, one has a firm clue to the date of type RL2. I have not seen a suggested opening date for Consejo, however.

ORANGE WALK A single, positive sighting for this office. 'Why get excited about this office?', you may ask - and anyway, why have a 'temporary' instrument for an office that had had permanent obliterations for many years? Well, now; it's not what you think. We all know ('almost all' - Ed.) about Orange Walk, New River; but the type RL2 mark is for the office of that name on Old River - it just has to be. So here, possibly, is the only type of obliterator that Orange Walk, Old River, ever used; and this is why the c.d.s. from the major office is so careful to include 'N.R.' at the foot.

PROGRESO (Lowry's Bight) Acknowledgements ones more to Ralph Group in Bulletin 84, for his path-finding work.

This review completes confirmed sightings known to me, where the office can be identified. There turn up as well stamps bearing the seven parallel lines of the type RL2 marking, without any part of the name. Width and spacing differs minutely between one mark and the next, and I own two such strikes which do not, as far as I can judge, belong to any of the five offices mentioned. Perhaps we shall learn of type RL2 markings for some of the following offices, before they moved on to their next type: Banana Bank; Big Falls; Boom; Double Head Cabbage; Gales Point; Guinea Grass; Isabella Bank; San Pedro; Spanish Lookout. I have given the best likely candidates here, but the list is not comprehensive.

I cannot yet be sure whether type RL2 has parallel lines at left as well as at right; on the whole, I think not. As to date, I think that marks of this type were acquired for use not earlier than 1905, and not later than 1909.

Simon Goldblatt

GRENADA

1940? KING GEORGE VI - POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPES

The One Penny Purple, (H.G.1) is fairly common overprinted SPECIMEN but is seldom seen without the overprint. Has any member a used copy? The 1½d value is also scarce without overprint SPECIMEN but is known used with a 1944 postmark. Date of issue is not known but it was assumed it was a War time printing. The issue must have been small as so few specimens appear to have survived.

Bryan E. Johnson

JAMAICA

GLEANINGS FROM THE DE LA RUE ARCHIVES

(1) The Projected King Edward VIII Stamp Issue for Jamaica

In the De la Rue archive at the National Postal Museum there is a complete volume of the correspondence books with the Crown Agents devoted to the preparation of a stamp issue for King Edward VIII.

The Crown Agents issued a tender on 10 August, 1936, which De la Rue returned on 20 August. The tender was for 3 different denominations for 39-41 Colonies, in a single design. There is a note of 27 August which reports that the engraving of an original die had commenced before the tender was even returned to the Crown Agents.

The tender was accepted on 13 October for 41 Colonies, with the requirement for Jamaica being:

1d red	3,500,000
1½d grey	300,000
2½d blue	240,000

Delivery was to be mid-March, in sheets of 120. A requisition for Jamaican stamps, 9334/1 dated 12 October, varied the original numbers somewhat:

1d red	3,600,000
1½d grey	360,000
2½d blue	300,000

For plates, stamps and specimens the quotation was £219.6.1.

On 9 December proofs in triplicate were submitted but the abdication lead to the cancellation of the order on 14 December. Now, with necessary but apparently unseemly haste, De la Rue were required to turn their attention to a Coronation issue for George VI. A design, based on photographs from Bertram Park, was available on 18 December and, again, engraving an original die had already commenced. The requisition for the Jamaican issue was 9334/2, the very next in sequence from the projected Edward issue.

Whether we missed an issue of fine design can be judged by looking at the ¼d Dominica, SG.109, which substitutes a head of George VI for that of Edward VIII.

Reference: De la Rue Archive 'Crown Agents volumes 105, 107.

(2) The George VI Issue of Jamaica

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF DESIGNS

"The design on the 3d stamp should be a banana plantation with a typical tree in the foreground bearing a matured bunch of fruit and that a male figure dressed in white short sleeved shirt and trousers, carrying a bunch on his head, be included. The plantation and figure might be set as if it was on the sea shore, with a ship depicted on the sea and suitable cloud effect, the King's Head being printed between the horizon and the top part of the stamp. For this design to be prepared effectively an oblong stamp about the size of the Jubilee issue would probably be necessary. I enclose six photographs that will be of assistance in the preparation of the design. Illustrations which may also be of help in preparing the final design will be found in the West India Committee Circular of the 19th April, 1928, facing page 142 and for 14th November 1929, facing page 442. An illustration of a banana field in Jamaica appears on page 224 of the 'Text Book of Tropical Agriculture' by Nicholls and Holland, published by MacMillan and Co. London, in 1929.

A somewhat similar design should be adopted for the 4d issue, depicting a Citrus Grove with a portion of the tree overhanging in the left foreground carrying mature

fruit being picked by a female figure with 2 or 3 boxes, containing fruit apparently just picked from the tree, standing on the ground. A piece of general landscape with mountain scenery in the distance could be incorporated. As with the 3d stamp an oblong design similar in size to the Jubilee stamp would meet the case. The design should present no particular difficulty and the enclosed publication issued by the Department of Science and Agriculture for the British Industries Fair, 1937, may be of assistance in its preparation. Three photographs of scenes in an orange grove are also enclosed.

The 9d design one of the two enclosed aerial photographs of Kingston Harbour should be utilised, with the King's Head inserted in the top left hand corner. The selection is left to the designer.

For the design for the 1/-d stamp a representation of the Sugar Industry is required with tall canes in the foreground vanishing into the distance along the edge of the cane plantation towards the left with a sugar mill and smoking chimney in the lower right hand corner. A scene in a cane field is among the photographs enclosed and there is a diorama of a sugar plantation and factory in the Gallery of the Imperial Institute which would doubtless be of help in the preparation of the design.

For the design for the 2/- stamp the enclosed photograph of Bamboo Walk, Lacovia, is suggested, with the King's Head at the top".

Those instructions were issued by the Crown Agents on 26 August, 1937 and De la Rue submitted their tender on 1st November. On 6th May the Crown Agents wrote to inform De la Rue that their tender had not been accepted and returned the designs.

Reference: De la Rue Archive 'Crown Agents' volumes 110-113.

(3) Dies and Plates manufactured for King George VI Stamps and utilised for more than one Colony

This list excluding territories outside the Caribbean area and prices charged is the substance of a letter from De la Rue to the Crown Agents, dated 29th September 1938.

PORTTRAITS

A. Large Letterpress Head:

B. Small Letterpress Head:

C. Large three-quarter portrait in naval uniform for recess printing:

D. Small three-quarter portrait in naval uniform for recess printing:

E. Profile head for recess printing:

Colonies

Bahamas. Bermuda. Leeward Is.

Jamaica. St. Kitts.

Leeward Is.

St. Lucia

Cayman Is. St. Lucia

Jamaica. Montserrat

DIES

F. General Key Die:

G. Large Nyasaland type die:

H. Small Nyasaland type die:

I. Die for Postal Stationery:

Leeward Is.

Bermuda. Leeward Is.

Jamaica.

Bahamas. Bermuda. Grenada.

Jamaica. Leeward Is. St. Lucia

Trinidad

J. Cameo Embossing Die:

Bahamas. Jamaica. Trinidad

PRINTING PLATES

K. General Key Plate 120-set

Leeward Is.

M. large Nyasaland plate 60-set:

Bermuda. Leeward Is.

P. Small Nyasaland plate 120-set:

Jamaica

Reference: De la Rue Archive 'Crown Agents' Volume 115

Michael Vokins

MONTSERRAT

MONTSERRAT - Forgeries and Fakes

A forgery is an imitation of something genuine whether it be of a stamp or an overprint to take but two examples. The obvious example of a forgery in this country is Jean de Sperafi's clever reproduction of the 4d blue stamp (SG.11).

A fake on the other hand is something which is genuine but has been tampered with in some way, for example, a stamp may have had a thinning of the paper which may have been repaired, or, the stamp may have received an imitation of a genuine overprint. In such a case the stamp when repaired is a fake and the imitation of the genuine overprint results in a forged overprint.

In Montserrat I have not so far found many forgeries or fakes and accordingly it is probably true to say that the genuine item or the item which has not been tampered with is far more common than the forgery or fake: here are some examples of forgeries and fakes. Antigua SG.14 1d scarlet used with a forged overprint of Montserrat T2. Although the forged overprint is fairly obvious the forger has failed to realise that Antigua SG.14 1d scarlet was never officially overprinted for use in Montserrat.

Montserrat SG.7b 1d rose-red used with forged overprint: in this example the forger has made a better job of the overprint.

As mentioned earlier, Sperati reproduced the 4d blue SG.11. He did this very cleverly through the process of photo-lithography. The reproduced design is very good but has constant flaws which distinguish it from the genuine article. Sperati used the same process to reproduce forged 'A08' cancellations on his 'stamps'.

Turning to the large format 1d fiscal or revenue stamps of Montserrat, these were not officially authorised for postal use but a number of examples exist with genuine postmarks impressed by favour. I have, however, an example of a 1d revenue stamp with a Montserrat c.d.s. which to my way of thinking is a forgery and for good measure the same stamp has been impressed also with what appears to be a forged 'A08' obliteration.

E.V. Toeg

ST. CHRISTOPHER

STCHRISTOPHER – PRE-ADHESIVE POSTAL HISTORY

The island of St. Christopher was sighted and named by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493. Capt. (later Sir) Thomas Warner sailed for the island, via Virginia, and arrived there on 28th January 1623/24, and began colonising it, a fact commemorated on the 1923 Tercentenary issue of St. Kitts Nevis. It is thus the oldest British colony. The island was captured by the French in 1782, but was restored to Britain the

following year by the Treaty of Versailles. Up till 1813, in fact, it had almost since 1623 been occupied by both British and French.

Pre-stamp letters from St. Christopher are not common. This is not surprising considering the size of the population. In 1774 the population consisted of 1,900 whites and 23,462 negroes; by 1856 the total had diminished to 20,741 of whom only 166 had elective franchise.

The first postmaster to be appointed was John Holding during the Dummer Packet period (1702-11); apart from his appointment nothing is known about him.

When a tentative start was made to run a Government Packet Service to the West Indies in 1745, St. Christopher was included as one of the scheduled calling places, and this continued when the service really began in 1755. The route followed in these early services was from Falmouth to Barbados, through the British Islands as far as Jamaica, then to Crooked Is. and back to England. It was virtually impossible, therefore, to send a Packet Letter in the reverse direction, e.g. from St. Christopher to Antigua; hence such letters were normally carried by private ship.

This state of affairs was partially remedied in 1787 when a local mail boat met the Packet Boat at Barbados and took over the mail service between there and several of the smaller islands. It is interesting to note that in a report dated 3 October 1787 the number of letters, unpaid, from St. Christopher was 318. In 1793 the Packet Service was reorganised and the local Mail Boats served all these small islands twice a month. By 1809 the First Packet of the month sailed from England to Barbados, and the letters for the Leeward Islands were conveyed by the local Mail Boats, whilst the Second Packet of the month called at all these islands. In the late 1830's a small steamer service was introduced and called at St. Christopher en route from Jamaica to meet the homeward bound Packet at St. Thomas.

When the RMSP Co., began operating the Packet Service, in 1842 St. Christopher was served by a Branch Steamer which met the Packet at Grenada.

The earliest postmarks - the straight line, dated, and fleuron marks - have already been dealt with in former Bulletins (April and July 1958, Nos.17 18 pp 20, 22 and pp 36 & 37). The only addition I can make refers to the first mark, Type PC. Since writing the original article I have seen a second entire showing the use of this mark, also in 1746, shown at the BPE in 1978.

The double arc handstamp with sans serif capitals was sent out on 1 July 1844. There is no trace in the Die Impression books of a Crowned Circle Paid mark being sent to St. Christopher; a circular "Paid" and dated mark was sent out on 12 September 1871, together with a new c.d.s. A S/L mark, St KITTs/SHIP LETTER mark is recorded as being issued on 27 August 1841, but so far I have not seen evidence of its use.

Between 1858 and 1860 the stamps of GB were allowed to be used in the island for the prepayment of postage, and the obliterator A12, horizontal oval of bars, was sent out to Basseterre accordingly on 14 April 1858. This one should not be confused with the vertical oval obliterator sent out later for cancelling the stamps when St. Christopher issued its own adhesives in 1870.

Although slightly outside the scope of these notes I feel I must refer to the "killer", found chiefly on the stamps of the 1875-76 issue, and occasionally on the 1870 issue. So far no one has produced precise answers to the various queries regarding this mark.

In the bulletin of July 1956, No.10 Miss Rose Titford gives her views on the subject and also quotes those of Robson Lowe. Apart from these two I have seen no worthwhile commentary on the “killer”.

Leonard Britnor

ST. LUCIA

ST. LUCIA POSTAGE DUES

I have now had the privilege of inspecting some of the Postage Due stamps which were in the collection of Dr. Lockie until so recently, and by reference to which he was able to correct many of the speculative suggestions which I made in my earlier notes on SG.D1 and D2 of St. Lucia in Bulletin 90.

I want to defend one assertion, which was incorrectly printed, and would therefore have been misunderstood. This was, that a horizontal pair showing normal and broad fount “No.” se tenant is a major rarity (not ‘variety’).

As Dr. Lockie made clear when he wrote about these stamps in the BCPSG Journal in March 1965, in the earlier printings of both values the narrow fount extends into the tenth row of the sheet, the change of fount being found either after the second stamp in the row or after the first. It must be apparent, though, from the numbering of the stamps that the final printings (in which all the bottom row shows the broad fount) account for more than half the issued quantity of each value. Since the first 20 sheets or so of the 2d - if they ever existed - seem to have been lost without trace, and the first 30 sheets of the 1d, one can write down to about 80 in the case of the 2d value and perhaps twice that number in the case of the 1d, the number of obtainable sheets which included such se tenant pairs.

Dr. Lockie was fortunate enough to own a few sheets from the early printings, and presumably a handful more survive intact. Of the remainder, how many can be supposed not to have been so split as to separate the crucial two stamps?

It would be fair comment, though, to offer this criticism of my previous assertions that, irrespective of whether they appear se tenant with normal or not (that is, the normal broad fount of the bottom row), the basic interest lies in those stamps from the bottom row which show the narrow-fount “No.” They are not difficult to recognise, because their numbers end in ‘0’, and their bases are imperforate; and, except for a few 1d stamps from the first printing, all the numbers - for the mathematically minded - are divisible by 60. Moreover the maximum quantity of such stamps, whether singles or not, is closely calculable. For the 2d, it is still only about 80, one per relevant sheet, and for the 1d, about 200.

I pass on to the one conclusion originally made by Dr. Lockie which I find hard to accept, namely, that stamps with narrow fount on Row 10/2 (stamp 56) belongs to either first or third printing, according to whether the paper does or does not bear papermakers watermark. This involves the assumption that the type was changed from narrow to broad fount on stamp 56, changed back to narrow, and then to broad fount all over again.

To my mind this is improbable. Is not the reason for using broad fount in the first instance, the one common to the printers of so many local issues, that there was not enough identical type available to set up the forme for the full sheet? If so, the probable reason for removing the standard type from stamp 56 would be that the

type on a stamp higher up the setting had become unserviceable and needed to be replaced. Once that had happened, from where would the type be found to restore stamp 56 to its original state? I feel that once stamp 56 had lost its original type, it had lost it for good, and so for that matter with stamp 55. Moreover, I think that if one inspects closely stamps 34 (6/4) and 41 (7/5) in earlier and later printings, one will see where the substitutions from the bottom row have taken place.

Does my analysis set new problems? I cannot see much difficulty in concluding that the supply of watermarked paper was used up in the course of the initial printing of the 1d, and that the run was completed with paper from a new batch. The sequence of numbering is not a clear guide to the order of printing, as Robert Devaux and Dr. Lockie definitively established; and simply by way of illustration, stamp 5330 - which I cited in Bulletin 90 - was from the second printing, whilst Dr. Lockie's stamp 5090 was a contrasting narrow fount item on watermarked paper, from the first printing.

On the question whether the entire stamp, apart from security numbering, was printed at a single operation, I must obviously defer to the weight and the combined authority of the views of Dr. Ritchie, Dr. Lockie and Mr. Devaux; and I do so gratefully, because I was wrong. Having seen the stamp in sheets, the printer could not have maintained the consistent 4mm. interval between the value and the lines above and below, unless the whole setting was locked together. I suppose that the differences of inking to which I drew attention could be explained simply by a very slight projection of the relevant parts of the type, so as to pick up or deposit more ink. I do notice - this is no more than one would expect from the history - that the vertical alignment of the "No" line does not maintain a constant relationship to the "ST. LUCIA. POSTAGE DUE" lines throughout the printings, but is sometimes a little more to the left or to the right than formerly. One would need more sheets to study than I have seen, but it looks as if the variations are wholly consistent with the changes of settings already disclosed by the changes of fount in the bottom row, and the change of numeral from one value to the other. I also get the impression that there are lateral variations in the position of the value lines which are independent of the setting of the other three lines, which again reconciles with the repeated alteration of value, from 1 to 2 and back. Accurate measurement is made difficult by the possibility of stretching or shrinking of paper. At any rate, the variations in alignment are sometimes observable with the naked eye - as, for instance, in Row 1/5, if one is concerned with the "No" line of print; or Row 8/6, 9/6, 10/2, if one is looking at the value line.

Incidentally, since first raising the present subject in Bulletin 90, I have heard about, though have not seen, a stamp without numeral; and I could not vouch for its authenticity in any case, as perforations could be monkeyed with to produce the variety on a single stamp. What I certainly forgot is that, if any one stamp has no numeral, the next one, up, down, or to the side, may have two different ones. There is almost no end to the possible variations which might crop up, once one starts to think about the subject.

If anybody has the patience, it would be a valuable exercise to plate these stamps, quite apart from the numeration. Only by doing so, and methodically checking each single, as it turned up, would one have a full chance of recognising that hoped-for item "stamp with wrong numeral", if any actually went into circulation unnoticed and uncorrected.

The final matter upon which I see room for further discussion, is the variety 'no stop after ST' at Row 5/3 (Stamp 27). The occurrence of this variety on separated printings of the 1d and 2d value is a curiosity, at least. Could it be explained by a stop which started (or worked) loose during the initial printing, was corrected at the end of that, and then worked its way loose again during the final printing of the 2d? That explanation would enable the actual number of printings of the 2d value to be cut from three to two, but again I see no great problem in such a conclusion, although it is not a point on which I have evolved any strong view.

It seems that more reports and information are needed on stamp 27, and may I give a simple formula in identify it - once more for the mathematically minded. Please look at your stamps with numerals ending in '5'. Add 25. Divide by 60. If the result is a whole number, that is the number of your sheet, and you are gazing at stamp 25. It's all done by mirrors!

Simon Goldblatt

ST. VINCENT

It may be seen as a fruitless exercise to try to establish the standard cancelling practice of a Colonial Post Office 100 years ago, and yet I do not believe in the case of St. Vincent that the appearance of certain instruments on certain values to be totally random.

The problems are threefold: first to establish the usual cancellation(s) to be found on a cross section of a particular issue; second to ascertain what other instruments might reasonably have been used; third to locate examples.

In the case of St. Vincent, taking the most interesting 15 year period 1870-1885 of the Perkins Bacon era, one is faced with five basic handstamps used at Kingstown: the horizontal A10 killer; the vertical A10 killer; the GB40c French Accountancy mark; the small St. Vincent cds and the 'K' abbreviated mark. Each can be found in both red and black, though one or more may have been in use at one of the villages. For simplicity I do not distinguish at this stage between the different variants of similar instruments, nor the more obscure PP, PD and so on.

However, a preliminary study reveals that only one stamp from SG.12 to SG.38 is found with all 10 combinations, and that is SG.18, the 1d black. The black horizontal A10 is pretty consistently found on nearly all issues as you might expect, but at the other extreme why should the 'K' abbreviate be found readily on the 1d black and yet never on the 1d olive (SG.29) or the 1d drab (SG.37). Because it dropped by the wayside -- not so as it is readily found on the contemporary low value ½d orange, and later on the De la Rue 1d drab (SG.39).

More intriguing are the fleeting appearances of the small St. Vincent cds. Commonly found on SG.19a and SG.21 in red and on SD.26a in black (as well as the provisional SG.35) I have now tracked down examples in red on SG.12, 23, 29 and 36; and in black on SG.23, 24, 25, 26a, 30, 31, 36 and 38. And if you want a real challenge try and locate examples of the red GB40c (probably village usage). So far my tally is four on SG.18, most surprisingly on SG.20, on SG.22 and SG.29.

I would welcome further comments and assistance before producing some sort of chart.

Vincent Duggleby

TRINIDAD

THE DE LA RUE PRINTINGS WITH REVERSED WATERMARK

A most interesting point is made by Mr. Marriott (Bulletin No.98) on the printings found with Reversed Watermarks. How many of us I wonder suddenly scurried to examine every item in our collection, not to say the duplicates too. I have to admit to my surprise at the number of issues and values which can be found as described. The following is my small contribution.

WATERMARK CROWN CC

1863-72	1/- Two significant shades
1863-76	1d One shade
	6d Two significant shades
1872-76	4d A unique shade
1876 issue	1d Two significant shades
	6d Deep green
1879 issue	½d Lilac shade
1882	1d on 6d Deep green

WATERMARK CROWN CA

1882	½d Only found with reversed watermark
	1d Two significant shades

A number of points I would like to raise. I use the words ‘significant shades’ largely resulting from a near complete failure to allocate the shades to those given in the Catalogues. This is hardly surprising when one appreciates the actual number of unique reprints which occurred throughout each issues era.

Proof of reversed watermarks occurring within a consignment is given by the 1882 1d Rosy-Carmine (SG.101). This issue is known to have been one consignment of 216,150 stamps invoiced on the 25th April 1882.

If, as is indicated, the 1882 ½d (SG.100) is only known with reversed watermark, then this may have resulted from a pack of 100 sheets of printing paper being mis-presented to the printing operator throughout the stamps printing operation. And if this was the case then certainly the same operation could have occurred during any of the printings for this era.

Acknowledgement: The London Philatelist Number 819, March 1961

John de Vries

TRINIDAD TOBAGO

1916 RED CROSS ISSUE

Referring to the article by John de Vries in the June 1976 Bulletin, and Bill Collins’ reply in the September number, a few further notes on the subject may not come amiss.

Firstly I would confirm that two operations were needed to complete the overprint and that the red colouring of the cross was made first. This is clear if one examines specimens where the red colouring is out of alignment with the black outline, and it will easily be seen that the said outline is printed over the red colouring. Had the two operations been reversed, then one would have seen some red colouring over the black outline.

In addition to the two listed catalogued varieties, the variety appearing on position No.19 of the left hand pane is also worthy of receiving catalogue status. Unintentionally, I am sure, John has rather confused matters by describing this variety as showing the '19.10.16' part of the overprint as "placed 2mm to the right of the cross and its outline". In actual fact the '19.10.16' is positioned 2mm to the right (when compared with the remaining 119 overprints of the setting) so that the stop after '16' is directly above the right vertical of the cross outline.

A pane would consist of 10 vertical rows and not 12 - a slip of the pen do doubt! The various other minor flaws are an invaluable help in positioning blocks and other multiples.

I would enquire whether John has positive evidence that the GPO Port of Spain canceller with the date 'OC 19 91' is a first day one. I have a "used" block of 12, with margins attached, consisting of the last two horizontal rows of a right hand pane. There are three clear impressions of a 24/25mm single circle datestamp of GPO Port of Spain each with the date 'OC 19 91'. However, the yellowish gum has not been removed from the stamps, so either the block was pre-cancelled by an obliging official on the first day, or the stamps were "remainders" and sold to the public complete with cancellations - with the year being shown as '91', possibly so as not to make the cancellation too authentic. The fact that John has seen so many examples of this date inclines me towards the latter theory, until such time as more positive evidence supporting the use of 'OC 19 91' on the first day turns up.

Perhaps it is not generally known that there is an error in this printing. On the block of 12 mentioned above the last stamp, i.e. No.60 of the R.H. pane is completely without any colouring in the cross. I have also a mint block of 6 stamps being Nos.29/30, 35/36 (the latter without stop) and 41/42 and here again the colouring in cross on No.42 can only be seen in an odd place or two under a powerful glass. It is obviously not a constant error, since all the sheets seen so far do have the red colouring in these positions.

Jim Laurence

TURKS ISLANDS

I have SG.62 and 63 in sheet form and was wondering if there were any retouches etc.

David Birley

TURKS CAICOS ISLANDS

THE 1953 CORONATION ISSUE OF TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND OTHER CARIBBEAN COLONIES

Just check your collections and look at the 1953 Coronation for your favourite Islands. Nothing very special about it so it may seem, with no worthwhile recorded varieties and just one stamp of the same basic design varying only in colour and duty for each Colony. Look in your catalogue and it may give added details as to the numbers issued and of the various plate numbers used in the printing. Now it begins to be more interesting. For the stamp was designed and engraved by Bradbury Wilkinson and with only three exceptions the stamps for the Caribbean area Colonies were then printed by De la Rue. Now as I understand it although the stamps were issued in post office size sheets of 60 stamps they were printed from both frame and vignette plates of 120 - as were the vignettes only for the 1935 Silver Jubilee omnibus for example. The

printer's sheets were then cut before distribution, and no gimmicks either to leave some uncut sheets so that 'gutter pairs' could be marketed!

I began to get interested in this issue when I luckily obtained some plate blocks of the Turks and Caicos Islands stamp; the plates used are numbered in this case 1 - 3, 1a - 3a, 1 - 4 and 1a - 4a; the frame plate being the first numbered. I noted that some sheets have their right hand margin perforated through, whilst others have only two perforation holes in that margin. It is the 'a' plates that have only the two perforations in the margin whilst the 1 - 3 plate (and I presume the 1 - 4 plate) has the margins perforated across. None of the four plates has the bottom margin perforated across.

I hesitate to draw a firm conclusion from this, but I do wonder. Were the two post office size sheets printed side by side with the 'a' sheets on the right, the whole being perforated in one operation before cutting?

Nice thought. But why are the Cayman Islands sheets - also printed by Bradbury Wilkinson printed the reverse way with their 1a - 2a plate appearing with a perforated right hand margin? What about the third exception that I mentioned earlier - Bermuda? And what about the De la Rue printings? Finally, "the commercial". Has any one the Turks and Caicos Islands 1 - 4 plate? Or a large block showing both right and left hand margins?

Mike Wilson

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Back again to SG.80 used: I picked up two pieces, each with a ½d stamp and one other, and each dated quite late in 1922. I rubbed my hands and hastened for my watermark detector. Were they script watermark? They were not. I can only emphasise again that a date after November 1921 is no guarantee that one possesses SG.80; the chances are still strongly against it.

Simon Goldblatt

OBITUARY

It is with sincere regret that I have to tell you of the death of William Ernest Irving at the age of 97. Mr. Irving was undoubtedly the Study Circle's eldest member and he was indeed, in every sense of the word, a senior citizen of the philatelic world. He had been a member of the Royal P.S. since 1937.

His collecting life spanned a period of some eighty years and his greatest love was the classic issues. Always ready with praise for the work of others, William Irving was himself an active and keen philatelist right up until his death, and as recently as last October, in the pages of Stamp Collecting Weekly, he made a timely entry into the debate on 'unmounted mint etc.

His passing will be a loss to us all.

Michael Sheppard

THE B.C.P.S.G. MEETING - LONDON 1980

Alfred Branston informs me that arrangements are now in hand for the BCPSG Meeting to be held in London during the period of the London International - May 6th to 14th 1980.

Both the Study Circle and the Roses P.S. have assured the Group of their wholehearted support and fullest participation and the general basis of a whole day

event has been agreed. The hire of a suitable room will be met from BCPSG funds, leaving only a nominal charge to members of the three organisations to cover the badge and registration fee.

Alfred will shortly be making a provisional room booking and arranging the programme which will include events for the Ladies.

Further progress will be given in subsequent Bulletins.

NEW MEMBERS

ASHLEY, William B., PO Box 641, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019 USA

Interest: Barbados pmks., Dominica all aspects, Jamaica pmks.

BOND, Roy G., 50, Gravel Road, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 6JJ

Interest: Montserrat, St. Vincent

HETLING, The Rev, William Maurice, St. Michael's House, Whitby Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 3DW

Interest: Used stamps of BWI., postal history of Jamaica

LACEY, Peter M., 29 W. 76th Street. New York, NY 10023. USA

Interest: St Lucia

LESLIE, George F. Jnr., 1720 Pacific #23, San Francisco, California 94109, USA

Interest: All BWI 19th Century pmks. and Jamaica

LESSING, W.B., 57, Caspayne Gdns., London, NW6 3DB

Interest: Martinique, St. Lucia, Windward Islands.

LEWIS, M.F., 34, Arosa Drive, Malvern, Worcs., WR14 3JP

Interest: 19th Century issues especially Bahamas, Granada, Jamaica

McCANE, Dr. Peter, Merrell Research Centre, 2110 East Galbraith Road, Ohio 45215, U.S.A.

Interest: Cayman Is., Turks & Caicos Is., Virgin Is., cancellations and postal history.

McDONALD, Thomsas C., PO Box 3324, Tampa, Florida 33601, USA

Interest: Cayman Islands.

NICHOLSON, Michael B., The Manor, South Hiendley, Nr. Barnsley, S72 9BS

Interest: Victoria Jubilee issues of British Guiana.

PAYNE, D.D., 9 Sylvan Drive, Styvechale, Coventry, CV3 6AB

Interest: Cayman Islands and Jamaica up to 1900

SHARP, S.A., 129, Valley Road, Kenley, Surrey, CR2 5BY

Interest: St. Vincent.

YOUNG, Joseph Anthony, c/o Dept. of Management & Personnel Services, GPO Building, Hamilton, Bermuda

Interest: Bermuda and Jamaica

VINER, B.A., 54, Parkview Gardens, Hendon, N.W.4

Interest: Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago

DECEASED MEMBERS

ADELSON, Elkin M., IRVING, W.E.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

BENDON, James, PO Box 5, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1PJ (Tel: 01-940 7077)

MORGAN, Dr. Patrick, 5, Acacia Grove, Dulwich, London, SE21 8ER

SAVILLE, Peter c/o Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forests, PO Box 358 Suva, Fiji

WARREN, Lt.Col. Daniel C., 116, Plum Point Loop, Aberdeen, MD 21005, USA
WILLIAMS, Patrick, 87 A, Bidston Rd., Birkenhead, Merseyside, L43 6TS
WISON, M.R., Del Mehari, 15, Mayflower Drive, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey
GU17 7RR

ALTERATIONS AND INTERESTS

HILL, John, Main interest: pmks of St. Kitts-Nevis & Anguilla. General interest: St. Kitts-Nevis & Anguilla material pre 1967 and Leeward Is. used in St. Kitts-Nevis & Anguilla.

PALMER. C., Delete "dealer"

TODD, J.H. Change interest to read p/h of Dominica; pmks. of village p.o's errors in surcharges and the issued stamps of Turks & Caicos Is.

RESIGNATIONS

COLEMAN, Dr. R: LOCKIE, Dr. J. M.: MOSELEY, T. E.: TAYLOR, P.K.: SWEET, R. M.: WHITFIELD, JR.

The following members have not paid their subscriptions for 1978 and are therefore dropped from membership:

BAKER, I.L.: BARROW, T.D.: CRANE, K.M.: FIDDLER, T.D.: FINNIE, N.: GARD, D.R.: GILLIGHAN, J.D.: HANCOCK, P.D.: SPELMAN, H.M.: SWINDELLS, M.: SZIMUTI, J.A.: TINDALL, J.A.: USICK, M.: WEEKS, C.A.

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